

REMARKS

The undersigned thanks Examiner M. J. Angebranndt for the courtesies extended during the interview of December 13, 2006 and for providing valuable suggestions.

Foremost, as suggested by the Examiner Applicants submit new drawings as the original drawings were black and white reproductions of color drawings. The new drawings clearly show different features of the drawings with different shading arrangements.

The limitation of claim 4 is now included in claim 1. This makes all rejections moot, other than the rejection of claims 1-4 and 6 as being obvious over Sakai in view of Anderson, further in view of Debesis. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

During the interview, it became evident that the Examiner had inadvertently interpreted the aperture having an arc-shaped slit as the beam spot of Figure 2 and read this feature on the elliptical aperture of Debesis. When the undersigned explained that the arc-shaped slit is the slit extending from near the center of the wafer to the near the perimeter of the wafer in Figure 2, the Examiner recognized that this invention is different from the cited prior art. The Examiner suggested that claim 1 should be amended to further recite "wherein the chord of the arc-shaped slit extends substantially from near the center of the rotating stage to near the perimeter of the rotating stage" for clarity and to clearly distinguish this invention over the cited prior art.

In light of the above, the pending rejections should be withdrawn.

In the event that the transmittal form is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, Applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorize the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing 146712004300.

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Respectfully submitted,

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